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February 22, 2011

Testimony in support of:

**S.B. 994 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CONNECTICUT WINE AT
FARMER'S MARKETS AND ESTABLISHING A FARMER'S MARKET WINE
PERMIT**

Submitted By: Don Tuller, President, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farmers and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

Farmers markets are thriving in Connecticut, and Connecticut Farm Winery's are another bright spot in the growing Connecticut agricultural economy. Connecticut Farm Bureau Association asks your support of S.B. 994 to allow consumers to purchase Connecticut farm produced wines at farmer's markets. We do believe that this proposed bill contains enough safeguards to make this activity successful. Farmer's markets provide an outstanding venue to purchase fresh, locally grown products while promoting Connecticut agriculture. Being able to add Connecticut farm wines to the farmers market product mix would be a very positive thing. It has been very exciting to see growth in Connecticut wineries and consumer demand for these products. Farmers markets are will benefit from the addition of Connecticut farm produced wines, and we urge your support of this bill.